## **EXHIBIT 1**

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF DELAWARE

SARA S. ECHEVARRIA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 05-284 (GMS)

v.

U-HAUL INTERNATIONAL, INC., ROGER MAYFIELD, and NATIONWIDE GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY Removed from Superior Court, New Castle County, Delaware C.A. No.: 05C-03-188 WCC

Defendants.

## AFFIDAVIT OF STEVEN L. CAPONI

STATE OF DELAWARE )
)ss
NEW CASTLE COUNTY )

STEVEN L. CAPONI, being first duly sworn, on oath, deposes and states as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney at Blank Rome LLP, counsel of record for defendant U-Haul International, Inc., in this matter and make this affidavit upon personal knowledge being duly authorized to do so.
- 2. In early May 2005, I was retained to serve as Delaware counsel for U-Haul International, Inc. ("U-Haul") in connection with the above captioned matter. On May 10, 2005, I was charged with finalizing and filing with the Court, a Notice of Removal removing this matter from the Delaware Superior Court to Federal District Court for the District of Delaware.
- 3. In connection with the preparation of the Notice of Removal, I reviewed the relevant portions of the United States Code Annotated, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the corresponding Local District Court Civil Rules addressing the removal process. A review of these sources suggested that, for the proceeding to be properly removed from the Delaware State Court, all defendants were required to consent to the Notice of Removal. As of May 10, 2005,

U-Haul and Nationwide General Insurance Company ("Nationwide") were the only defendants

that had been properly served with the complaint.

4. In connection with the Notice of Removal, I was provided with the May 4, 2005

letter from Sonja Blackhawk, stating that Nationwide was joining in U-Hauls request to remove

this action from the Delaware state court. Due to the ambiguity in the applicable codes, statute

and Third Circuit case law, it was unclear whether: (i) Nationwide was required to submit an

affidavit supporting the Notice of Removal; (ii) the May 4, 2005 letter should be attached as an

exhibit to the Notice of Removal; or (iii) if it was sufficient to state in the Notice of Removal that

Nationwide had consented to the removal of the action from the Delaware state court.

5. In an effort to clarify the manner in which Nationwide's consent to the Notice of

Removal should be brought to the attention of this Court, my office contacted the Clerk of the

Court for the Delaware District Court. After discussing the three options identified in the

preceding paragraph, the Clerk of the Court indicated that it was unnecessary to submit the May

4, 2005 letter as an exhibit and that it would be sufficient to state in the Notice of Removal that

Nationwide's consent had been obtained. Following these instructions, paragraph 8 was inserted

into the Notice of Removal and the May 4, 2005 letter from Nationwide was not attached as an

exhibit. Had the Clerk of the Court been unavailable or indicated that an affirmative statement in

the Notice of Removal was insufficient to convey Nationwide's consent, the May 4, 2005 letter

would have been attached as an exhibit to the Notice of Removal.

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 6 day of June

\_, 2005

Notary Public, State of My Commission : SHERRI L. CAMP

NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF DELAWARE

My Commission Expires Jan. 12, 2006